City of Binghamton

Mayor Richard C. David

Annual Action Plan

September 2018 to August 2019 (Fiscal Year 44)

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Prepared by:

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Version Date: July 13, 2018

Executive Summary

AP-05 Executive Summary - 24 CFR 91.200(c), 91.220(b)

1. Introduction

This plan represents the fourth year of the City of Binghamton 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan. Many of the elements in this plan will be similar if not the same as the previous year's plan. No new goals have been identified. The City continues to look at the City as a whole in allocating it's entitlements however certain areas represent concentrations of poverty that necessitate focusing HUD entitlement funds in those areas.

This plan shall work in tandem where possible and able with the Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2014 and available at http://www.binghamton-ny.gov/blueprint-binghamton-comprehensive-plan and draws from surveys done for that project as well as a residential market analysis available at http://www.binghamton-ny.gov/residential-market-analysis. An Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Plan was created in 2015 that identified additional measures the City may need to take to ensure fairness and equality for all of its residents

2. Summarize the objectives and outcomes identified in the Plan

This could be a restatement of items or a table listed elsewhere in the plan or a reference to another location. It may also contain any essential items from the housing and homeless needs assessment, the housing market analysis or the strategic plan.

This plan has seven goals based on the Consolidated Plan goals. These goals are to 1) increase home ownership rates, 2) reduce blight and beautify the city, 3) eliminate homelessness, 4) rebuild or modernize public infrastructure, 5) improve transportation and accessibility for all, 6) provide services for the underserved, and 7) revitalize the economy of Binghamton.

3. Evaluation of past performance

This is an evaluation of past performance that helped lead the grantee to choose its goals or projects.

Funding cuts across all grants have decreased the ability for the City and its grant sub-recipients to maintain previous levels of service quality. The City has encouraged higher owner occupancy through several programs that target LMI or elderly homeowners. Dozens of blighted buildings in the community have been removed. However, there is still much work that needs to be done. The continuation of homelessness, often in tangent with the heroin crisis, has been met with ESG funds as well as certain targeted CDBG service programs, however, more could be accomplished with higher funding levels.

4. Summary of Citizen Participation Process and consultation process

Summary from citizen participation section of plan.

The City has a Community Development Advisory Council made up of eleven appointees selected by the mayor and council members to act as the voice of the residents per the Citizen Participation Plan. This committee typically meets once to twice a month and meetings are open to the public. CDAC members are also encouraged to do local outreach in their neighborhoods to seek additional comments or suggestions. The CDAC provides recommendations on the Annual Action Plan and funding.

All Community Development announcements, including notifications for the public hearings, are emailed to a large mailing list of interested parties, non-profits, municipal agencies, and private citizens.

An initial public meeting was held on March 19, 2018 for opinions prior to creating the Annual Action Plan, however, only a handful of people attended and only one speaker voiced their opinion on funding needs and priorities for the community.

An second public meeting was held on May 7, 2018 for comments regarding the publically available Draft Annual Action Plan for FY44. Once again however, only a handful of people attended and only one speaker voiced their opinion on funding needs and priorities for the community.

In addition to these public comment periods, individuals could contact the City directly and relevant comments were passed onto the CDAC for their deliberations. All written public comments are included in the submitted Public Comments attachement.

5. Summary of public comments

This could be a brief narrative summary or reference an attached document from the Citizen Participation section of the Con Plan.

March 19th Public Hearing Comment Summary

 Reduce HUD entitlement funds utilized for City staff salaries in order to free up more funds for service programs or direct LMI projects

May 7th Public Hearing Content Summary

- Increase notification to the public for public hearing
- Reduce HUD entitlement funds utilized for City staff salaries in order to free up more funds for service programs or direct LMI projects such as parks

6. Summary of comments or views not accepted and the reasons for not accepting them

All comments were taken into consideration. The percentage of City staff salary for this year's Plan has dropped from 43% in FY43 to 35% for CDBG funds. HOME salary expenses have dropped from 10% to 8%, and ESG salary expenses have dropped from 6% to 5% for the same years. Public hearing notifications are done via newspaper notification, online ads, flyers posted at various public facilities like senior centers and the Public Housing complexes, and the Community Development mailing list. Additional avenues for outreach are available, such as radio ads that have not been done yet.

7. Summary

The goals listed herein represent a comprehensive city-wide effort to reshape the City for the better.

PR-05 Lead & Responsible Agencies – 91.200(b)

1. Agency/entity responsible for preparing/administering the Consolidated Plan

Describe the agency/entity responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

Agency Role	Name		Department/Agency	
CDBG Administrator	Bingha	mton	Department of Planning, Housing, and Comm Develop.	
HOME Administrator	Bingha	mton	Department of Planning, Housing, and Comm Develop.	
ESG Administrator	Bingha	mton	Department of Planning, Housing, and Comm Develop.	

Table 1 - Responsible Agencies

Narrative (optional)

The Binghamton Department of Planning, Housing, and Community Development is the agency responsible for preparing the HUD entitlement individual Annual Action Plans. The Community Development division is responsible for administering the CDBG and ESG grants and the Housing division is responsible for administering HOME funds.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Stephen Carson, Grants Administrator

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AP-10 Consultation - 91.100, 91.200(b), 91.215(l)

1. Introduction

An initial public meeting was held on March 19, 2017 to hear local needs and concerns for the Annual Action Plan. Over one hundred agencies, from local social groups to municipal agencies to religious organizations, were contacted via email or phone. Individuals within the community who had expressed interest in being notified about HUD funding were also contacted. Unfortunately, only a small number of individuals/agencies showed up and only on speaker voiced an opinion. The second meeting on May 7th had similar turnout.

The City also created a contact email specifically for which stakeholders and residents could voice their concerns, and this email was included in the press release submitted at the time the draft Annual Action Plan was released for public review in order to maximize public feedback.

Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(I))

The City works directly with three housing providers: First Ward Action Council, Opportunities for Broome, and Metro Interfaith. First Ward Action Council, amongst other activities, provides senior housing rehab services which is reimbursed through the CDBG program. In addition, First Ward is in the process of using HUD entitlement funds as well as further State grants to develop a scattered site LMI housing project in the city. Opportunities for Broome is an agency that works to better and empower the low income residents of the area and has been a CHDO for past projects. Metro Interfaith runs the Homeownership Academy that provides free financial and home purchase counseling for prospective home owners and helps coordinate with the Housing division for its own home purchase and rehabilitation program. All of these agencies run their own housing services for lower income households in various locations throughout the region. The Binghamton Housing Authority is a separate entity that administers the Section 8 Program and Public Housing in Binghamton.

Each Fall, the City releases RFPs seeking applications for the expenditures of the CDBG public service activity funds as well as ESG funds. Potential stakeholders are notified along with public advertising to maximize agencies that wish to become sub-recipients. The Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC) helps oversee and award the remaining service and ESG funds prior to the Council's and Mayor's final decision on sub-recipient's funding allocations.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness.

The Grants Administrator is the ad-hoc City representative with the local Continuum of Care (CoC), the Homeless Coalition of the Southern Tier, as well as the CoC HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) Administrator. The Grants Administrator acts as a voting member of the CoC as a representative of the City and is a member of the NOFA and HMIS subcommittees. The Grants Administrator is also working with the CoC in incorporating the Coordinated Entry System, specifically by updating the ESG Written Standards to better reflect the HUD requirements and local needs as well as to create a more objective method of measuring performance.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards for and evaluate outcomes of projects and activities assisted by ESG funds, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the operation and administration of HMIS

The Grants Administrator works closely with the local Continuum of Care (CoC), the Homeless Coalition of the Southern Tier, as well as the CoC HMIS (Homeless Management Information System)

Administrator. The Grants Administrator acts as a voting member of the CoC as a representative of the City and is a member of the NOFA and HMIS subcommittees. The Coordinator of the CoC presented to the CDAC in late winter to explain the area's homeless situation as well as to provide meaningful initial budget recommendations (the pre-sub-recipient funding levels). In the Fall, the CoC will also work hand in hand with the CDAC to prepare the RFPs for homeless agencies wishing to receive EGS funding as well as to make recommendations to the City as to which agencies should receive specific funding for their programs. This will run in tandem with the CoC's NOFA budget process.

2. Describe Agencies, groups, organizations and others who participated in the process and describe the jurisdiction's consultations with housing, social service agencies and other entities

Table 2 – Agencies, groups, organizations who participated

1	Agency/Group/Organization	Coalition for the Homeless of the Southern Tier, NY Inc.
	Agency/Group/Organization Type	Services-homeless
	What section of the Plan was addressed by Consultation?	Homeless Needs - Chronically homeless Homeless Needs - Families with children Homelessness Needs - Veterans Homelessness Needs - Unaccompanied youth Homelessness Strategy
	Briefly describe how the Agency/Group/Organization was consulted. What are the anticipated outcomes of the consultation or areas for improved coordination?	Agency is the local Continuum of Care. Provided information and data regarding homeless needs in the area.

Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

Any agency may contact the City Community Development Department at any time for help or to submit ideas or even ask questions regarding the HUD Entitlement programs.

No business or civic leaders were contacted regarding a homeless strategy specifically because of the advanced organizational state of the local Continuum of Care.

The city reaches out to local stakeholders through two methods: an email list to specific stakeholders and for those affecting homelessness, the City Grants Administrator acts as a voting member and attends regular CoC meetings (NY-511) in which occur discussions regarding the local impacts and needs for homeless individuals in the area.

Relevant stakeholders contacted every year during the community hearing and feedback process include, but are not limited to:

Binghamton Housing Authority

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Binghamton City School District
Broome County Department of Health
Broome County Department of Social Services
Broome County Law Department
Broome County Office for Aging
Broome County Re-entry Taskforce
Broome County Transit
Broome County Youth Bureau
Lourdes Hospital
Metro Interfaith
Southern Tier AIDS Program
The Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier
United Health Services

Other local/regional/state/federal planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

Name of Plan	Lead Organization	How do the goals of your Strategic Plan overlap with the goals of each plan?
Continuum of Care	Homeless Coalition of the Southern Tier	The City receives ESG funds it then distributes to agencies that provide homeless services. All belong to the Homeless Coalition. The Homeless Coalition also provides client tracking information that the City can then utilize for its own plan and strategies. In many ways, the Homeless Coalition and the City are partners in implementing homeless prevention and reduction policies.
Blueprint Binghamton	City of Binghamton	Several projects and goals listed in the Blueprint Binghamton comprehensive plan were scheduled to be met with CDBG funds. In the years since the development of that plan, several of those goals have been met.

Table 3 – Other local / regional / federal planning efforts

Narrative (optional)

AP-12 Participation – 91.105, 91.200(c)

1. Summary of citizen participation process/Efforts made to broaden citizen participation Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

The City has a Community Development Advisory Council made up of appointees selected by the mayor and council members to act as the voice of the residents per the Citizen Participation Plan. This committee meets throughout the year to provide recommendations on the City's Consolidated and Annual Action Plans.

In addition, public meetings are held prior to adoption of the Annual Action Plan. One is held prior the release of the draft plan and another is held during the 30 day comment period to take in resident feedback.

In addition, the press release submitted during the 30 day comment period encouraged citizens to reply via email to a dedicated email address setup for all HUD based plans and actions in order to provide a better record of public feedback. This ad also included a web link for a digital copy of the draft plan to increase review.

Citizen Participation Outreach

Sort Ord er	Mode of Outre ach	Target of Outre ach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments received	Summary of comm ents not accepted and reasons	URL (If applicable)
1	Public Hearing	Non- targeted/broad community	Roughly five to six individuals attended each.	Reduce City salaries from HUD programs.	None	

Sort Ord er	Mode of Outre ach	Target of Outre ach	Summary of response/attendance	Summary of comments recei	Summary of comm ents not accepted	URL (If applicable)
2	Public Meeting	Non- targeted/broad community	The Community Development Advisory Council is made up of eleven appointed members that represent city residents. Meetings are open to the public. CDAC members are also encouraged to do local outreach in their neighborhoods to seek additional comments or suggestions.	All meetings are recorded and available to anyone who asks for a copy. When resources permit, meeting minutes are transcribed from the recordings. CDAC comments are taken into account by the Council and Mayor and the Grants Administrator acts as a liaison between the City and the members	Generally, all legitimate comments are reacted upon. In cases where official decisions must be made, a quorum vote plus one is required in order to give the CDAC a centralized voice on a course of action.	http://www.bingham ton- ny.gov/community- development- advisory-committee- cdac

Sort Ord	Mode of Outre	Target of Outre	Summary of	Summary of	Summary of comm	URL (If applicable)
er	ach	ach	response/attendance	comments recei	ents not accepted	
				ved	and reasons	
			All residents are encouraged			
			to send comments to the			
			Grants Administrator via			
			phone or direct email.			
	Internet	Non-	Alternately, they can email			
3	Outreach	targeted/broad	hudplan@cityofbinghamton	None received		
	Outreach	community	.com. This email link is			
			linked to the Grants			
			Administrator and is used as			
			the default email for public			
			comments via email.			

Table 4 – Citizen Participation Outreach

Expected Resources

AP-15 Expected Resources – 91.220(c)(1,2)

Introduction

Entitlement funding from HUD has decreased steadily over the past few years with the exception of recent HOME increases. Currently, the city receives approximately \$2.25 million in overall entitlement amongst the three programs: CDBG, HOME, and ESG. With decreasing funds comes decreasing capability of delivering improvements and programs to the city. In addition, regulatory oversight limits the usage of these funds as many resources must be spent to meet HUD and other federal requirements, New York State, and even Broome County and other local requirements.

Anticipated Resources

Program	Source of	Uses of Funds	Expe	cted Amour	nt Available Ye	ear 1	Expected	Narrative Description
	Funds		Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$	Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	
CDBG	public - federal	Acquisition Admin and Planning Economic Development Housing Public Improvements Public Services	1,894,684	28,143	0	1,922,827	1,750,000	Numbers, including PI, based on last year's numbers as newest entitlement amount has not been provided.

Program	Source of	Uses of Funds	Ехре	cted Amour	nt Available Ye	ear 1	Expected	Narrative Description
	Funds		Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior Year Resources: \$	Total: \$	Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan \$	
HOME	public - federal	Acquisition Homebuyer assistance Homeowner rehab Multifamily rental new construction Multifamily rental rehab New construction for ownership						Numbers, including PI, based on last year's numbers as newest entitlement amount has not been provided.
		TBRA	511,176	49,400	0	560,576	400,000	
ESG	public - federal	Conversion and rehab for transitional housing Financial Assistance Overnight shelter Rapid re-housing (rental assistance) Rental Assistance Services						Numbers based on last year's numbers as newest entitlement amount has not been provided.
		Transitional housing	154,562	0	0	154,562	150,000	

Table 5 - Expected Resources – Priority Table

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied

The City is exempt from the 25% match from HOME funds, however, the City of Binghamton could utilize past and current State level grant funds to match the amount. The City works with the Homeless Coalition to discuss its member's capacity to meet the matching 50% for ESG funds and the City meets its own small portion of its match through general fund expenses to cover additional relevant salary expenses.

If appropriate, describe publically owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan

The only City owned property that would be influenced by the needs within this plan would be park improvements and the potential demolition of properties acquired by the City for removal of blight. The future usage of cleared properties will be based on what CDBG eligible activities will best be served by reuse of the plots. The City's Vacant Property Officer is in charge of coordinating and cataloging vacant properties. This catalogue can then be utilized to determine a best course of action for areas that were previously blighted and have since become areas with vacant scattered lots. The City has begun a process of allowing neighboring homeowners the opportunity to purchase these lots for their own usage, and returning these proceeds as program income to the City's HUD programs. The City is also looking at selling properties for a nominal fee to be utilized by either LMI qualified homeowners, or non-profit agencies that predominately serve LMI clients for capital usage.

Two additional categories are planned for future usage of cleared properties. Properties could be turned into public green-space or mini parks in LMI areas. Similarly, cleared properties adjacent to a park that serves an LMI service area could be incorporated into the park space. Finally, if several adjoining properties are cleared, the properties could be redeveloped as part of an economic incubator project that will have the goal or either serving an LMI area or by creating LMI jobs.

Finally, once the City has a good index of vacant but not demolished properties, we can explore non-demolition rehabilitation of residential properties for either residential or commercial uses in order to revitalize targeted neighborhoods.

Annual Goals and Objectives

AP-20 Annual Goals and Objectives

Goals Summary Information

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Increase Owner	2015	2019	Affordable	City of	Homeownership	CDBG:	Public service activities for
	Occupied Housing			Housing	Binghamton		\$418,000	Low/Moderate Income Housing
							номе:	Benefit: 50 Households Assisted
							\$360,576	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated:
								76 Household Housing Unit
								Direct Financial Assistance to
								Homebuyers: 10 Households Assisted
2	Blight Reduction	2015	2019	Affordable	City of	Blight Reduction	CDBG:	Public service activities for
				Housing	Binghamton		\$434,237	Low/Moderate Income Housing
				Non-Housing			HOME:	Benefit: 21150 Households Assisted
				Community			\$200,000	Rental units rehabilitated: 3
				Development				Household Housing Unit
								Buildings Demolished: 7 Buildings
								Housing Code
								Enforcement/Foreclosed Property
								Care: 1327 Household Housing Unit

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Geographic Area	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
3	Reduce/Prevent	2015	2019	Homeless	City of	Eliminate	ESG:	Tenant-based rental assistance /
	Homelessness				Binghamton	Homelessness	\$154,562	Rapid Rehousing: 85 Households
								Assisted
								Homeless Person Overnight Shelter:
								278 Persons Assisted
								Overnight/Emergency
								Shelter/Transitional Housing Beds
								added: 0 Beds
								Homelessness Prevention: 25 Persons
								Assisted
4	Improve	2015	2019	Non-Housing	City of	Fix Public Utilities	CDBG:	Public Facility or Infrastructure
	Infrastructure			Community	Binghamton	and Facilities	\$206,500	Activities for Low/Moderate Income
				Development				Housing Benefit: 21150 Households
								Assisted
5	Improve	2015	2019	Non-Housing	City of	Improve	CDBG:	Public Facility or Infrastructure
	Transportation &			Community	Binghamton	Transportation	\$172,500	Activities for Low/Moderate Income
	Accessibility			Development				Housing Benefit: 160 Households
								Assisted
6	Provide Service	2015	2019	Non-Homeless	City of	Services for the	CDBG:	Public service activities other than
	Activities			Special Needs	Binghamton	Underserved	\$110,000	Low/Moderate Income Housing
								Benefit: 2272 Persons Assisted
7	Economic	2015	2019	Non-Housing	City of	Economic	CDBG:	Jobs created/retained: 15 Jobs
	Development			Community	Binghamton	Revitalization	\$163,000	Businesses assisted: 2 Businesses
				Development				Assisted

Table 6 – Goals Summary

Goal Descriptions

1	Goal Name	Increase Owner Occupied Housing
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by funding the Binghamton Homeownership Academy through Metro Interfaith. In addition funding is being set aside to provide City seniors with minor to moderate repairs on their homes. The First Time Homebuyer program administered by the Housing department will provide funds to assist income eligible households with new homes in the city and the related HOME rehabilitation program along with the lead paint program will help repair and rehabilitate owner occupied housing units.
2	Goal Name	Blight Reduction
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by providing funding to the Code Enforcement Department to inspect and enforce building codes in lower income and blighted areas. Money will also be allocated through the HOME CHDO set aside for rental rehabilitation. Demolition activities, including engineering expenses, will decrease the number of vacant and dangerous building in the City. Finally, money will go into crime prevention to provide additional security in low income residential neighborhoods and parks.
3	Goal Name	Reduce/Prevent Homelessness
	Goal Description	ESG funds will go towards assisting the running and potential expansion of homeless shelters and services in the area. Funds will also be used to provide homeless prevention services for those at risk of homelessness and for providing funds to enable the homeless to transition from shelter to their own housing. Finally, a portion of funds will be used to provide HMIS services. Through HUD's emphasis on Housing First, this goal may go hand-in-hand with Goal 1 through putting people into new homes, or Goal 2 through the creation of new quality rental units.
4	Goal Name	Improve Infrastructure
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by providing funding to the Department of Public Works and the Parks Department for the replacement or modernization of public utilities and facilities. A standardized percentage of costs will also be provided to the Engineering Department to oversee these activities.

5	Goal Name	Improve Transportation & Accessibility		
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by providing funds to reconstruct streets where needed, or to provide for milling and paving of eligible areas. It will also cover the costs to provide engineering services for these activities.		
6	Goal Name	Provide Service Activities		
	Goal Description	This goal will be accomplished by providing funds for various non-profits to provide services that affect special needs populations, including, but not limited to, lower income youth, seniors, and the disabled. In addition, the City has identified that the national heroin epidemic has become a local problem and will utilize funds to address this matter.		
7	Goal Name Economic Development			
Description interest loans to small business with the requirement that they create jobs for low income peopl		This goal will be accomplished by providing funding to the Binghamton Local Development Corporation to provide low interest loans to small business with the requirement that they create jobs for low income people. The BLDC will also provide marketing and technical assistance for businesses within the community in accordance with HUD regulations.		

Projects

AP-35 Projects – 91.220(d)

Introduction

The City will release RFPs in the fall for both the public services goals and the homeless goals for the upcoming city fiscal year (January 1st to December 31st). This will allow agencies in the community to submit their plans on utilizing entitlement money. For ESG funds, the Homeless Coalition is utilized as a source for creation of the homeless specific RFP and the selection of awarded agencies. Although many of the agencies who submit ESG activities are part of the Homeless Coalition, the overall group's input is utilized to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest. All submitted activities are evaluated by the Community Development Advisory Council, along with public feedback, and then recommendations are submitted to the Mayor's Office and the City Council prior to final approval.

Certain activities, due to the nature of the activities, are done through either formal bid, such as multiyear lead testing contracts. Some, due to unique capabilities and/or past working relationships such as with Metro Interfaith and First Ward Action Council, are directly assigned to agencies.

Projects

#	Project Name
1	FY44 CDBG/ Administration
2	FY44 CDBG/Planning and Design
3	FY44 CDBG/ Economic Development
4	FY44 CDBG/Housing
5	FY44 CDBG/Code Enforcement
6	FY44 CDBG/Public Infrastructure
7	FY44 CDBG/Demolition
8	FY44 CDBG/Human Services
9	FY44 CDBG/Section 108 Loan Payments
10	FY44 ESG/City of Binghamton
11	FY44 HOME/Administration
12	FY44 HOME/Rehabilitation
13	FY44 HOME/CHDO Set-aside

Table 7 - Project Information

Describe the reasons for allocation priorities and any obstacles to addressing underserved needs

AP-38 Project Summary

Project Summary Information

1	Project Name	FY44 CDBG/ Administration
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	CDBG: \$151,000
	Description	Salaries and contractual services for administering the CDBG program.
	Target Date	8/31/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	As it is the first year of the Fair Housing training, mestaimes are that at least 200 householdes will benefit.
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Salary and benefit for Grants Adminstrator, including overtime, stipend for CDAC members, reimbursement for related contractual, legal, and financial activities. The City will also continue to fund a Fair Housing educational outreach program to inform landlords and renters of their rights and responsibilities.
2	Project Name	FY44 CDBG/Planning and Design
	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	CDBG: \$78,115
	Description	Salaries and contractual services for general planning activities, including mapping services.
	Target Date	8/31/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	

	Planned Activities	In addition to meeting goals and projects identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan, this funding line will allow the City to consolidate	
		and define its accessibility regulations to ensure maximim resident use of	
		City facilities and City funded activities	
3	Project Name	FY44 CDBG/ Economic Development	
	Target Area	City of Binghamton	
	Goals Supported	Economic Development	
	Needs Addressed	Economic Revitalization	
	Funding	CDBG: \$163,000	
	Description	Salaries for Binghamton Local Development Corporation (BLDC) to administer CDBG revolving business loans and counsel local businesses.	
	Target Date	8/31/2019	
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Lower income families throughout the City	
	Location Description	Target areas for businesses will include, but are not limited to, the Main Street corridor, especially on the West Side of the City. That area borders on and serves several lower income neighborhoods.	
	Planned Activities	The BLDC administers a revolving loan program that provides low interest loans to businesses that promise to hire or retain employees from lower income households. In addition, the BLDC provides outreach and technical assistance to commercial activities located in lower income areas	
4	Project Name	FY44 CDBG/Housing	
	Target Area	City of Binghamton	
	Goals Supported	Increase Owner Occupied Housing	
	Needs Addressed	Homeownership	
	Funding	CDBG: \$418,000	
	Description	CDBG program housing projects and delivery including program delivery, senior housing repairs, lead risk assessments for property rehabilitation, funding for homeownership training, closing cost assistance, and other contractual services required for rehab and/or home purchases.	
		·	

	Target Date	8/31/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately seventy lower income seniors will be assisted with minor home repairs. Service programs will be predominately lower income, whereas direct loans, such as through First Time Homebuyer, will be limited to lower income households.
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Senior Housing Repair Program, Homeownership Academy, Lead Risk Assessment Program, First Time Homebuyer Program.
5	Project Name	FY44 CDBG/Code Enforcement
	Target Area	City of Binghamton
	Goals Supported	Blight Reduction
	Needs Addressed	Blight Reduction
	Funding	CDBG: \$250,000
	Description	Code enforcement activities, the majority of which occur in low-mod areas and neighborhoods.
	Target Date	8/31/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately 1,320 lower income households will be assisted.
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Responding to Code Violation calls from renters and/or neighbors. Assisting individuals with bringing properties into compliance with local and State building requirements.
6	Project Name	FY44 CDBG/Public Infrastructure
	Target Area	City of Binghamton
	Goals Supported	Blight Reduction Improve Infrastructure Improve Transportation & Accessibility
	Needs Addressed	Blight Reduction Fix Public Utilities and Facilities Improve Transportation

	Funding	CDBG: \$379,000
	Description	Includes replacement of roads and utilities, milling and paving, and park capital improvements. Also includes delivery and additional costs associated with each activity as well as delivery costs for demolition activities.
	Target Date	8/31/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Activities will serve residents throughout the city.
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Expected activities to include several street milling and paving projects in predominantley LMI residential areas. Street improvements may also include sidewalk replacements and/or utility replacements. Additional activities will include capital improvements to parks and other permitted public buildings such as bathroom upgrades, new equipment installation, or aesthetic improvements. All parks assisted must have a service area that serves predominately LMI residential neighborhoods. Costs include the engineering and architectural oversight of projects.
7	Project Name	FY44 CDBG/Demolition
	Target Area	City of Binghamton
	Goals Supported	Blight Reduction
	Needs Addressed	Blight Reduction
	Funding	CDBG: \$100,000
	Description	Demolition, site clearance, and all related costs of buildings deemed to be unsafe.
	Target Date	8/31/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	

	Planned Activities	Identified properties must be determined by Code Enforcement to be dangerous. Currently habitated properties will not be demoished until residents are relocated. Properties will be tested for asbestos and cleared per NY State requirements. Demolitions and post demolition cleanups will follow and include air monitoring to meet all Federal and State requiements
8	Project Name	FY44 CDBG/Human Services
	Target Area	City of Binghamton
	Goals Supported	Blight Reduction Provide Service Activities
	Needs Addressed	Blight Reduction Services for the Underserved
	Funding	CDBG: \$204,237
	Description	Includes extra services targeted towards specific groups as well as crime prevention activities such as overtime for extra LMI neighborhood patrols or additional park rangers in city parks
	Target Date	8/31/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	A broad swath of the community will be served: from youth, to seniors, to the disabled.
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Activities will be broad in scope but will include activities to reduce crime in lower income areas and parks, assistance to potential or existing homeowners to improve their financial priorities, and direct financial assisatnce to local non-profit agencies to expand or improve their
		programs that serve the community.
9	Project Name	programs that serve the community. FY44 CDBG/Section 108 Loan Payments
9	Project Name Target Area	
9		
9	Target Area	
9	Target Area Goals Supported	

	Target Date	8/31/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	
10	Project Name	FY44 ESG/City of Binghamton
	Target Area	City of Binghamton
	Goals Supported	Reduce/Prevent Homelessness
	Needs Addressed	Eliminate Homelessness
	Funding	ESG: \$154,562
	Description	Project for the usage of ESG funds
	Target Date	8/31/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Over 350 households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	In addition to administrative costs, ESG funds will be used to address the five categories of eligible activities as detailed by HUD for ESG funds — Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-Housing, and HMIS. Reflective of recommendations made by the local Continuum of Care and subject to the definition and documentation requirements identified by HUD's "Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Defining 'Homeless'" Final Rule and "Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Emergency Solutions Grant Program and Consolidated Plan Conforming Amendments" Interim Rule, the City will distribute these funds according to homeless agency needs to reduce homelessness in the City. The City is committed to the usage of funds to be used mainly for the purposes of assisting people to go from situations of homelessness in all its definitions to permanent and sustainable housing situations.
11	Project Name	FY44 HOME/Administration

	Target Area	
	Goals Supported	
	Needs Addressed	
	Funding	HOME: \$42,924
	Description	
	Target Date	8/31/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Administration and inspection activities
12	Project Name	FY44 HOME/Rehabilitation
	Target Area	City of Binghamton
	Goals Supported	Increase Owner Occupied Housing
	Needs Addressed	Homeownership
	Funding	HOME: \$317,651
	Description	Single family rehab program
	Target Date	8/31/2019
	Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Eight lower income households
	Location Description	
	Planned Activities	Lead inspection and removal as well as rehabilitation of single family owner occupied housing
13	Project Name	FY44 HOME/CHDO Set-aside
	Target Area	City of Binghamton
	Goals Supported	Blight Reduction Reduce/Prevent Homelessness

Needs Addressed	Blight Reduction Eliminate Homelessness
Funding	HOME: \$200,000
Description	CHDOs receiving funding must be certified and meet all HOME requirements for proposed projects.
Target Date	8/31/2019
Estimate the number and type of families that will benefit from the proposed activities	Approximately three lower income tenants will be assisted.
Location Description	
Planned Activities	Creation and rehabilitation of rental housing.

AP-50 Geographic Distribution – 91.220(f)

Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed

The City wishes to maintain a comprehensive, city-wide plan instead of targeting specific locations. All activities must meet LMI eligibility requirements where required by HUD.

Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
City of Binghamton	100

Table 8 - Geographic Distribution

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

The City wishes to maintain a comprehensive, city-wide plan instead of targeting specific locations. All activities must meet LMI eligibility requirements where required by HUD.

Affordable Housing

AP-55 Affordable Housing - 91.220(g)

Introduction

The City does not run a public housing or Section 8 program. Those are done though the Binghamton Housing Authority, an independent agency. The City also does not use HOME funds for Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA). HOME funds can provide assistance to agencies such as CHDOs to provide affordable decent rental units. The ESG program provides services to prevent those in danger of homelessness to remain in their units via rental assistance and to also provide funds for those who are homeless to lease a new rental unit.

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	110
Non-Homeless	89
Special-Needs	0
Total	199

Table 9 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Requirement

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	85
The Production of New Units	0
Rehab of Existing Units	79
Acquisition of Existing Units	10
Total	174

Table 10 - One Year Goals for Affordable Housing by Support Type

AP-60 Public Housing – 91.220(h)

Introduction

The overall goal of the PHA is to provide as much high-quality necessary public housing in excellent condition as it can.

Actions planned during the next year to address the needs to public housing

The PHA plans on increasing the quality of its units, reduce vacancies, expand its voucher landlord base, find additional funding, and to improve the safety of its residents.

Actions to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership

The PHA plans to promote employment amongst its residents when possible. It also plans on seeking services that will allow the elderly or disabled more independence. As sources of funding become available, the City will outreach to PHA staff and it's residents to invove them, along with other affected neighbors, to renovate the area in a way that meets the resident's needs and wishes.

If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe the manner in which financial assistance will be provided or other assistance

The PHA is not designated as "troubled".

AP-65 Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities – 91.220(i) Introduction

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs

The City will release an RFP in the Fall seeking applications from homeless service providers. These funds will be split along Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention services in order to meet HUD cap requirements. The local Continuum of Care will be notified when the RFPs are released and will be involved with the selection and award of ESG funds.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons

The City will release an RFP in the Fall seeking applications from homeless service providers. These funds will be split along Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention services in order to meet HUD requirements. The local Continuum of Care will be notified when the RFPs are released and will be involved with the selection and award of ESG funds.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again

The City will release an RFP in the Fall seeking applications from homeless service providers. These funds will be split along Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention services in order to meet HUD requirements. The local Continuum of Care will be notified when the RFPs are released and will be involved with the selection and award of ESG funds.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.

The City will release an RFP in the Fall seeking applications from homeless service providers. These funds will be split along Emergency Shelter/Street Outreach and Rapid Re-housing/Homeless Prevention services in order to meet HUD requirements. The local Continuum of Care will be notified when the RFPs are released and will be involved with the selection and award of ESG funds.

Discussion

The City is not a recipient of HOPWA funds.

AP-75 Barriers to affordable housing - 91.220(j)

Introduction:

Most public policies that have an effect on the affordability of housing have little to do with City policies. CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds are used and do directly affect people's affordability of housing by providing assistance for housing rehabilitation or through providing assistance to those at risk of homelessness by providing temporary rental assistance. Beyond essentially providing funds that residents would not be able to afford on their own that may affect affordability, much of the rest is in the hands of state and federal limitations and regulations that add extra overhead costs to private and public projects.

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment

Tax policies that make it difficult to afford homes are somewhat reduced by using HUD and other grant funds to offset the required taxes to run the city where possible. For example, school taxes are outside the purview of the City as a municipality, and little can be done for those other than to funnel funds into youth programs that may offset school taxes.

The City will run a lead risk assessment program for rehab projects and that can help alleviate lead paint issues homeowners may have when it comes to repairing their homes.

Discussion:

AP-85 Other Actions – 91.220(k)

Introduction:

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs

The City will provide funds to "human service" programs run through local non-profits. The City will encourage non-profits to apply for funding and will judge applicants based on the program's impacts for the underserved.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing

The City will continue to fund the administration of the First Time Homebuyer program and fully fund the owner occupied rehabilitation programs. The HOME CHDO set aside will address rental unit rehabilitation. The City will also continue to fund programs through area non-profits to provide the homeownership academy and senior housing rehabilitation programs. All of these will help to maintain and improve affordable housing in the area.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards

The City will continue to run its lead paint assessment program in tangent with its housing rehabilitation program.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families

The City will continue to fund economic development activities to decrease the unemployment rate.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure

City representatives will monitor all agencies receiving CDBG, ESG, and HOME funding during the year to ensure that all activities meet HUD requirements on reporting and financial responsibility.

Actions planned to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies

The City is working on a Language Assistance Plan (LAP) that will bring together non-profit service agencies and municipal agencies to develop a communication access plan for all City-run and City funded programs. Understanding that there is a close connection between fair housing issues and communication issues, the City is encouraging agencies that can bridge the gap between cultural and economic groups and provide outreach and education programs that are identified through the LAP and Fair Housing Study as needed to submit applications for CDBG funding. Programs such as fair housing

education courses for tenant and landlords, English classes, and translation and communication services, may all be potentially viable under the human service program funding as identified in the plan.

Discussion:

Program Specific Requirements

AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.220(I)(1,2,4)

Introduction:

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the	
next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	23,830
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year	
to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has	
not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
Total Program Income:	23,830

Other CDBG Requirements

1.	The	amount	of ur	gent i	need	activities

0

2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.

73.74%

HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) Reference 24 CFR 91.220(I)(2)

1. A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:

The City receives New York State Affordable Housing Coproration funds to help shore up its home rehab program.

2. A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:

HOME funds will not be used for home purchase activities, only for rehab.

3. A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:

HOME funds will not be used for home purchase activities, only for rehab.

4. Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

CHDOs perform multi-family rental unit rehabilitation. Liens and restrictive convenants are placed on the properties to ensure that HUD regulations are followed in regard to rental costs and LMI requirements.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Reference 91.220(I)(4)

1. Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)

Please see attached Emergency Solutions Grants Program Written Standards. This will be updated this year in time with the local CoC's Written Standards update and activation of the Coordinated Entry System.

2. If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

The Coordinated Entry System has been implemented and is in use. Individuals with questions about homelessness are directed to the 211 system which directs individuals to dedicated

Coordinated Entry agents. These agents ask pertinent questions and begin the individual entrance into the HMIS system. The CES group coordinates with the local agencies to determine the best fit for individuals experiencing or potentially experiencing homeless.

3. Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).

RFPs will be released in the Fall. Eligible homeless agencies will be required to submit applications indicating the need for funding and their ability to meet the matching requirement. Awards will be based on project utilization, performance, and monitoring data as represented by recommendations received from the local Continuum of Care.

4. If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

The City pays a license for and utilizes the HMIS system run by Fairview Recovery Services, the lead agency for ShelterNet. In addition, there is a City representative that acts as a voting party at monthly Continuum of Care meetings and sits on the CoC financial and information subcommittees.

5. Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

The update to the Written Standards includes new performance measurements that will be implemented soon. The City strives for a 100% reduction in homelessness and was one of the first to respond to the national call for the elimination of homeless veterans.

Attachments

Citizen Participation Comments

PUBLIC HEARING 3/19/2018

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TRANSCRIPT

TARIK ABDELAZIM: Good evening, thank you for hosting this, uh, public forum and soliciting community feedback on next year's entitlement grant. <aside conversation> Uh, my name is Tarik Abdelazim. I live on the south side of Binghamton, a homeowner, and as the former director of planning, housing, and community development have a lot of experience working with these funds. Uh, I, I wanted to present to you two different things. Uh, one is kind of some budget scenarios, and the second is a letter I had distributed to the C-D-A-C last, uh, April. And I believe that some of you who were on there had thought that it was- it came a bit too late in the process, but that it was worth discussing, maybe in December. I don't know if the uh issues were ever taken up. But, I'll just get to kind of the crux of my recommendations, and that is that we are currently spending over fifty percent of this community development block grant on city staff, personnel costs, salary, and expenses. Uh, and I strongly encourage the C-D-A-C to start transferring all of those personnel costs out of the community development block grant primarily for two reasons. One is that we know that the current administration for the second year in a row has proposed eliminating this program altogether. Obviously to much dismay of Republican and Dem-, Democratic mayors. But I believe that he is going to have success in cutting this program. And so, it would be prudent and fiscally responsible for the administration to start thinking about moving these costs over into the general fund in order to maintain the same level of services. Two, we know that the need is great in the community and it is increasing, particularly around addiction but there is no question we have incredibly high rates of childhood poverty, hunger, we have serious housing issues and challenges with substandard rental properties. All of these are activities that would fall under key objectives of this program. The third thing is that the city is probably is in its greatest financial health that it has been in decades. And I bet that if you were to measure the general fund balance as a ratio of the general fund budget, Binghamton is probably the top three in all of New York State. Uh, the Two Thousand Sixteen audit, so there was one amendment and update to that letter I sent last year and it's in red and that is that the general fund balance at the end of Two Thousand Sixteen according to the most recent audit released just a few months ago is basically twenty million dollars. So why are we covering personnel costs for human resource director, personnel expenses in the law department, in the finance department, in engineering department, right? With this, with this critical funding source that should support the most distressed neighborhoods and those who are in most need in our community. Right, it just doesn't make sense. So, my suggestion is that, you know, it is always easier to kind of engage some numbers that you have. So, in that front page I listed five different options, from do nothing to a full elimination of all personnel costs in your proposed budget. Even if you were to take a moderate transition, it would free up over three hundred thousand dollars that you could then commit to eligible activities. I think those who have been her last year you saw how maybe the allocation across the human service programs was maybe a bit political. I'll stay diplomatic. But frustrating, because you all put a lot of time into figuring out who should get those dollars. If you look at the total amount that was requested last year was a hundred and eighty nine thousand, you could have funded all of those. You can next year, and more if you make even just some of these small gestures. Right, so what was actually allocated was about a hundred and one thousand, right, but you can actually commit fifteen percent of your total budget towards human service agencies. So that equates to about two hundred and fifty eight thousand. Again, you could have covered all of the requests and actually challenged the community to come up with more cross-sector collaborations.

Now I know that one of the refrain in the past, I want to be obvious and and very transparent. We did this in the past. We used this to cover personnel costs, and I lay that out. I am not playing politics here, is that we did that in the context in which the city was basically on the verge of bankruptcy and we were facing serious financial challenges that had been a practice going on for decades, but in my last few years I started to move personnel costs, and in my last year I moved every position to the general fund to allow this group to finally do what it would want to do, which is, you know what, we're not going to pay the city a hundred thousand for finances and legal, we're only going to give you fifty. It makes it much easier. So, I encourage you to have very non-partisan constructive dialogue, but there is no question that the needs in our community are strong. There's no question that we are in incredibly strong financial position in the city. That these costs can be absorbed, particularly if they are done in a moderate fazed-in approach, and I think your responsibility is not what happens to the general fund and in October, it's whether or not these dollars, precious dollars, are going to activities consistent with the program objectives and you have a great chance to, I think, make Binghamton's reputation as a fiscal, as a strong fiscal steward to use these dollars even better. Thank you.

Citizen Participation Comments

PUBLIC HEARING 5/7/2018

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TRANSCRIPT

TARIK ABDELAZIM: How's everybody doing? Good, Tarik Abdelazim, Seventeen Tremont, Binghamton. Uh so few comments. One uh you're supposed to start off with a nice thing right? So one Steve just passed me this budget I want to commend him for providing you a lot of guidance on mins-max and I know that this will get filled out now that you know your actual entitlement. Uh but I think that there's a lot of great detail here that can guide you all in your final deliberations. Um as a as a comment I would say that, uh, that the Mayor has certainly knows how to use social media and traditional media when he wants a photo op, um, when a project is funded by C-D-B-G. But yet when there's activities that are soliciting community feedback there's nothing. Nothing on the city's Facebook page, no press release issued. Uh it was the bare minimum, um, that there was a notice: a legal ad placed in, in the newspaper. I think that we can do better than a legal ad. And, so I hope that going forward, uh, you push the Mayor's office to try to encourage as much community input as possible. Uh third thing I would comment is that I know I have provided a lot of of detail in the last public hearing hopefully providing you all some guidance about what would it mean to reduce personnel expenses by ten percent, by twenty percent, by fifty percent, um, and I know that you haven't made your recommendations yet. Um, but I hope that that is a very substantive conversation, uh, as I mentioned before the city is absolutely flush: nearly twenty million dollars in the general fund reserves. I'm certain that this is the time that we restore fiscal integrity to all of our individual enterprise funds, including C-D-B-G and HOME. This is a great opportunity. What that means of course is that you are also driving initial investments into neighborhoods that have been traditionally underserved and investing in people through human service programs when the need in our community is obviously very great. The good news is that, uh, you all got word that you got about a hundred and seventy, maybe up to two hundred thousand dollars, of additional funds to appropriate. As I mentioned before I think that we are underfunding the human services, uh, the allocation that was if you looked at just what was granted towards the human service agencies: less than about seven percent when you can commit fifteen percent. Um, I see that the homeownership academy, youth program, and park rangers were included under human services which, the best thing about C-D-B-G is you can be flexible in your interpretation, I wouldn't necessarily put all those there, um, but you have some additional funds. And there is no question that we have mental health needs in this community, we have substance abuse challenges, um, we have a great deal of poverty, we have youth that should be employed during the summer instead of left to their own devices which often leads to negative activity, right? There are a lot of great partners out there if you challenge them and provide them additional funds and I think that this would again be a great, uh, activity in order to drive some of those funds. Finally I would just ask that as you go forward, uh, that you itemize the allocations for public infrastructure and parks improvement, right? I mean there's a lot of funny business that can be done with those in our facilities, C-D-B-G funds are not allowed to be used for routine maintenance of our public facilities so I would encourage you all if it's not routine maintenance then obviously there is a plan, right? And I know Bill Barber is outstanding with planning, uh, and I would encourage you all to demand that there is an itemization as to where a hundred thousand dollars in parks improvement is going, as well as a hundred seven thousand. If it's just mill and pave you don't have to name the streets I understand that's a challenge that engineering has to deal with mill and pave. But if its pub- if its parks what's it going to be invested in our parks and where? Uh, those are my comments, I just want to appreciate you all for again finding the opportunity

for all of the community to provide guidance. I wish you the best of luck. Uh, my last comment would be is: you are an advisory body. Don't let anyone take that role from you. Uh, so I hope than when the funding budget does go to the council that you keep your recommendation in that final document and present it to council, so that the council and the public can see where the differences were in this body that spent months engaging all the stakeholders and then the administration that might have chose differently.

Thank you

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Grantee SF-424's and Certification(s)

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Annual Action Plan 2018

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